

GCSE

CHINESE

Unit 2 Reading
Report on the Examination

46702
June 2013

Version: 1.0

Further copies of this Report are available from aqa.org.uk

Copyright © 2013 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

AQA retains the copyright on all its publications. However, registered schools/colleges for AQA are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use, with the following important exception: AQA cannot give permission to schools/colleges to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within the centre.

Foundation Tier

General

The paper proved to be accessible for the majority of students. The main challenge for some students was an inability to recognise the key characters. Some native Chinese speakers struggled to express themselves accurately in English. Students performed well on the following question types: matching Chinese characters with icons, questions focusing on sports and hobbies, short sentences, multiple choice questions. Students found the following issues challenging: school subjects and health issues, long sentences in the target language, texts with distractors.

Question 1

Pets are a familiar topic to most of the students and they coped very well indeed. This question was designed to give students confidence at the beginning of the examination.

Question 2

This question proved to be accessible and most students chose the correct answers. The only exception was 2(a), and the majority of students answered incorrectly. When they read 司机 they related the 2nd character (machine) to flying machine – aeroplane.

Question 3

Students did well in the first half of the question and most chose two correct answers out of four. In the second half, more students failed to score as they were not certain about the numerals and the final sub-question proved to be challenging. Many students made wild guesses even though 做饭 (cooking) is a commonly used phrase.

Question 4

Students coped impressively well with this question on favourite sports.

Question 5

This proved to be the most challenging question on the paper. Students were required to answer questions in English. School subject vocabulary is routinely taught but these characters were not recognised by many students.

Question 6

This question was successfully answered by most students.

Question 7

This question proved to be challenging, particularly to less able students. Health vocabulary appeared not to be well known by many students.

For 7(a), (c) & (d), most students chose the correct answers: 眼睛 (eye), 头 (head) and 做运动 (sport). However, 肚子 (stomach) and 药 (medicine) proved to be challenging.

Question 8

This challenging question was answered successfully by many students.

Higher Tier

General

It was very pleasing to see many students do well on this paper and successfully deal with the challenges. Unfortunately, students failed to score because, although they fully understood the questions, they wrote the answers in Chinese. It clearly states in the rubric that only English answers are accepted. The following questions were answered successfully: questions with icons,

multiple choice, topics on Chinese culture, festivals etc. Many students found it challenging to read longer, more complex text, containing conjunctions and auxiliary verbs, for example.

Question 1

Most students answered this question successfully, demonstrating their ability to deal with longer sentences. On the other hand, basic mistakes also emerged. For example, 汉语 (Chinese) was confused as ‘modern language’ or simply ‘language’.

Question 2

Students coped impressively with this question on favourite sports.

Question 3

This crossover question from the Foundation Tier paper, which proved very demanding for Foundation students, was generally answered successfully at Higher Tier. There was still an indication that the topic of Health is not being covered adequately.

Question 4

Generally students answered this question well, in particular the sub questions 4(b), 4(c) and 4(e). Surprisingly, many students failed to distinguish between 百货商店 (department) and 超级市场 (supermarket), and considered statement 4(a) correct, thus failing to score. For 4(d), the answer ‘?’ posed a problem to many students. Teachers are recommended to practise this style of question.

Question 5

The vast majority of students performed well on this question except for 5(d). Some failed to spot the difference between the spring and autumn, and others failed to recognise 下雪 (snow); but the biggest challenge was the distractor – many students did not read the text in (d) carefully and jumped to the wrong conclusion.

Question 6

This medium demand question was appropriately dealt with by the students. The question type (choices from X, Y and X+Y) demanded that students should read the texts very carefully before making their choice of answer and they did this successfully on most occasions.

Question 7

For 7(a), the success rate was very high, as this was a straightforward question. The following sub-questions were not so successful and the biggest problem appeared in 7(b)(i) – there were many incorrect spelling for ‘restaurant’. While it was good to note that many students had spotted the word 动物 (animal), it was a pity they ignored another important word 店 (shop), as this would have helped them to find the correct answer ‘pet shop’, rather than 动物园 (zoo).

Question 8

This challenging question covered both conjunction words and an auxiliary verb but, to the students’ credit, most of them answered impressively well.

Question 9

This A* question was demanding but many students answered correctly.

(a) Many students answered ‘play computer games’, ‘girlfriend’ and ‘watch TV’. These appeared in the text but were not correct answers.

(b) Lots of students failed to spot the key words, such as 快乐 (happy) and 高兴 (glad), and answered 'tired' and 'exhausted', perhaps as the result of a guess.

(d) 放松 (relax) was the key word here and many students answered correctly.

(e) Surprisingly, 家务 (housework/chores) proved not to be well known and many students guessed wildly.

(f) This sub-question was the most demanding on the paper. 压力 (pressure) was a challenging word but more able students were able to use the context and logic to answer this question correctly; less able ones gave a variety of answers, from 'annoying', 'happy/fun' to 'freedom' and 'lazy'.

(g) 牙医 (dentist) and 生物学家 (biologist) were well spotted, with many students getting at least one of them right. 'doctor' and 'scientist' were not precise enough answers to score the mark.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.

Converting Marks into UMS marks

Convert raw or scaled marks into marks on the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) by using the link below.

UMS conversion calculator www.aqa.org.uk/umsconversion